



# **Borough of Chatham**

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## **Press Release**

### **Mayor Kobylarz: False Claims About Crime Are Demoralizing to Our Police Department**

As Chatham Borough's Mayor, I serve as the executive for Chatham Borough and take direct responsibility for ensuring that our employees at every level know they are supported and have the tools they need to do their jobs. I have worked hard with the Borough Administrator and various department heads to maintain a high level of morale through several very difficult years.

For a number of weeks now, I have listened to candidates for the Borough Council make false claims about Chatham Borough's crime rate, safety, and our police department's set of activities. These individuals have been corrected repeatedly and publicly – not by politicians or elected officials, but by our own Police Chief. Nevertheless, they have continued to make these false and misleading statements. I can come to no other conclusion than that they are trying to deceive and unnecessarily frighten our residents, without regard to the fallout this will have on our police department or our residents, because they believe that doing so will help get them elected.

Politics can often be rough (although I have never seen quite this level of negativity in Chatham Borough in any previous election, from either party), but our municipal employees should never be collateral damage in this process. Ours is one of the most difficult times in US history to be a police officer, with a considerable array of challenges and almost every action an officer takes potentially being viewed under a microscope. Given these conditions, the rhetoric we've seen out of these two candidates and their campaign is nothing but demoralizing to our truly exceptional police department. Our Chatham Borough police officers simply deserve better.

I encourage every resident to read the following statement from our Police Chief, which includes accurate local crime data, and be reassured that Chatham Borough continues to be an incredibly safe community in which to live.

<https://chathamborough.org/component/fileman/file/2022-07%20Crime%20Stats%20Letter%20to%20the%20Community.pdf?routed=1&container=fileman-attachments>

Naturally, we always need to employ common sense in our everyday activities, but we can also conduct our lives knowing that the crime rate in Chatham Borough is low by any standard, historical or otherwise, and that our fantastic police officers are a major reason why.

Thank you,

Mayor Thaddeus J. Kobylarz